

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O P 161630Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8372

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

S E C R E T ATHENS 2959

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR TU CY

SUBJ: POSSIBLE HARTMAN VISIT TO ANKARA/ATHENS

1. EARLY THIS AFTERNOON JUST BEFORE HE WAS LEAVING ATHENS TO ACCOMPANY PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS TO PARIS, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A SHORT CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS. BITSIOS INQUIRED WHETHER I HAD HEARD ANYTHING FURTHER ABOUT HARTMAN GOING TO ANKARA AND THEN COMING TO ATHENS AND IF ANY DATES FOR SUCH VISITS HAD BEEN PLANNED. I SAID THAT I HAD NOTHING NEW TO TELL HIM, THAT I WAS STILL AWAITING FURTHER WORD AS TO WHETHER AND WHEN HARTMAN WOULD BE MAKING SUCH A TRIP. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE WOULD BE BACK IN ATHENS SUNDAY EVENING AND INQUIRED WHETHER I THOUGHT HARTMAN WOULD BE IN ATHENS AS EARLY AS MONDAY, APRIL 21. I SAID THAT I DOUBTED IT AND BELIEVED IT WOULD BE SOMEWHAT LATER IN THE WEEK, AT THE EARLIEST. BITSIOS SAID HE HOPED IT WOULD BE AS EARLY IN THE WEEK AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE HE FELT IT COULD BE HELPFUL FOR HARTMAN TO VISIT BOTH ANKARA AND ATHENS WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE RESUMED TALKS ON CYPRUS IN VIENNA APRIL 28.

2. BITSIOS VOLUNTEERED THAT HARTMAN SHOULD TRY AND AVOID TWO POSSIBLE UNFAVORABLE OUTCOMES TO HIS VISIT TO ANKARA. ON THE ONE HAND, BITSIOS SAID, HARTMAN SHOULD NOT ALLOW THE TURKS TO TAKE THE POSITION THAT RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY GREEK

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OFFICIALS "PROVE" THAT THE GREEKS ARE UNWILLING TO NEGOTIATE

ON A REALISTIC BASIS AND THEREFORE THERE IS NOTHING FURTHER TO BE DONE NOW. ON THE OTHER HAND, BITSIOS WENT ON, HARTMAN SHOULD NOT ALLOW THE GOT TO TAKE THE OPPOSITE POSITION, NAMELY, THAT THE GOT AND THE GOG HAVE ALREADY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO MEET AND HAVE DISCUSSIONS AND THEREFORE THERE IS NOTHING FURTHER FOR HARTMAN TO DO AND THE TURKS WILL BE UNABLE TO TELL HIM ANYTHING FURTHER UNTIL AFTER THE BILATERAL GREEK-TURKISH MEETING. EITHER OF THESE OUTCOMES TO A HARTMAN VISIT TO TURKEY "WOULD SIMPLY DELAY" THINGS, ACCORDING TO BITSIOS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTIONING, BITSIOS SAID THAT THE IDEAL OUTCOME TO HARTMAN'S VISIT TO ANKARA WOULD BE FOR HARTMAN TO OBTAIN "SOME CONCRETE REPLY" FROM THE TURKS ON THE IDEAS AND FRAMEWORK FOR A POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS THAT THE SECRETARY HAD DISCUSSED WHEN HE WAS IN ANKARA FIVE WEEKS AGO. BITSIOS SAID THAT THE TURKS "OWE AN ANSWER" TO THE SECRETARY FROM HIS EARLIER VISIT AND THAT HE AND CARAMANLIS ARE STILL AWAITING SOME FURTHER WORD THEMSELVES. BITSIOS SAID HE HOPED THAT HARTMAN WOULD TRY AND PRESS FOR SOME SUCH RESPONSE WHEN HE VISITED ANKARA. IF THE GOT RESPONDED POSITIVELY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY, BITSIOS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A "GREAT HELP" TO THE UPCOMING VIENNA TALKS, THE ENVISAGED BILATERAL GREEK-TURK MEETING, AND TO THE "OVERALL SITUATION" IN THE AREA. BITSIOS SAID THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ATTACHED "GREAT IMPORTANCE" TO THE SECRETARY'S "GOOD OFFICES" IN TRYING TO HELP FIND SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS.

4. BITSIOS AND I MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO STAY IN TOUCH OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS WHILE HE IS IN PARIS, AND HE ASKED ME TO PASS HIM ANY INFORMATION I RECEIVED CONCERNING HARTMAN'S TRAVEL PLANS. (I WILL BE ABSENT FROM ATHENS MYSELF FROM MID-DAY THURSDAY UNTIL MID-AFTERNOON FRIDAY ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO CRETE. HOWEVER, DCM STEARNS IS FULLY INFORMED OF MY CONVERSATIONS WITH BITSIOS AND IF NECESSARY IS PREPARED TO TRANSMIT A MESSAGE TO BITSIOS THROUGH JOHN TZOUNIS, WHO WILL REMAIN BEHIND IN ATHENS.)

5. BITSIOS MADE ONE OTHER POINT TO ME IN THIS CONVERSATION. HE SAID THAT CARAMANLIS BELIED THAT WE WERE NOW AT "A  
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MOST DELICATE JUNCTURE" IN THE WHOLE PANORAMA OF PROBLEMS BESETTING GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AND CYPRUS. ACCORDING TO BITSIOS, CARAMANLIS BELIEVES THAT PRESSURES HAVE BEEN MOUNTING ON TURKEY AND THAT THE MOMENT IS ARRIVING WHEN THEY WILL "YIELD RESULTS". HE SAID THAT CARAMANLIS HOPED THAT THE USG WOULD NOT TAKE ANY STEPS OR ACT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO EASE THE PRESSURE ON TURKEY, OR AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE A BREAKTHROUGH ON THIS SET OF PROBLEMS WOULD BE LOST.

(COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BITSIOS DID NOT SAY SO, IN SO MANY WORDS, HE GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT RESTORING US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY AND/OR SOME BEHIND THE SCENES REASSURANCES TO TURKEY FROM WASHINGTON, THAT WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF ENCOURAGING THE GOT TO MAINTAIN A HARD, UNCOMPROMISING POSITION ON CYPRUS AND TOWARD THE GREEKS. THIS, OF COURSE, IS THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN THAT HAS BEEN PRESENTED BY THE TURKS TO AMBASSADOR MACOMBER, NAMELY, THAT THE GREEKS AND OTHERS WILL BE MISCALCULATING IF THEY INTERPRET TURKISH PATIENCE AND SILENCE AS A SIGN THAT "PRESSURE TACTICS" AGAINST THE TURKS IS THE ONLY TO PRODUCE RESULTS.) KUBISCH

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